

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01052 271532Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /087 W
-----097689 281319Z /43

R 271500Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5703
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, LY, SY
SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT VISITS LIBYA

REF: TRIPOLI 1046 (NOTAL)

1. THE JULY 22-25 VISIT OF SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT ALBERT RENE CLIMAXES A SERIES OF VISITS TO LIBYA BY LEADING SEYCHELLES PERSONALITIES OVER PAST THREE MONTHS AND FOLLOWS RECENT LIBYAN DECISION -- NOT PUBLICIZED HERE -- TO OPEN AN EMBASSY IN VICTORIA. DESPITE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, RENE WAS NOT GIVEN ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT (IN PUBLIC AT LEAST) OVER DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT GOULED OR CONGO PRIME MINISTER SYLVAIN-GOMA WHO WERE VISITING SAME DATES. NO NEW ACCORDS WERE ANNOUNCED, ALTHOUGH RENE MET WITH QADHAFI AND OTHER OFFICIALS AND PRESUMABLY DISCUSSED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

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2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT WAS STRIKINGLY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE DJIBOUTI-LIBYAN DISCUSSIONS (REFTEL). WHILE LATTER WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL IN CONTENT AND RELATIVELY MODERATE IN TONE, THE SEYCHELLES-LIBYAN COMMUNIQUE WAS TWICE AS LONG AND READ LIKE A JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY RELEASE. IT CONTAINED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE BUT STRONGLY REITERATED

MOST MAJOR LIBYAN FOREIGN POLICY THEMES INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, APPLAUSE FOR LIBYAN EFFORTS TOWARDS CHAD RECONCILIATION, AND THE NECESSITY FOR THE "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES IN AFRICA TO CREATE A SINGLE FRONT TO RESIST FOREIGN INTERVENTION. COMMUNIQUE ALSO CONTAINED NUMEROUS GRATUITOUS REFERENCES TO QADHAFI'S "GREEN BOOK" AND TO THE LIBYAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC "ACHIEVEMENTS" BASED UPON IT.

3. COMMENT. LIBYA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE HAS BEEN TARNISHED OF LATE FOLLOWING FAILURE OF CHAD TALKS, FOREIGN SECRETARY TURAYKI'S LAMENTABLE PERFORMANCE AT KHARTOUM, AND THE FOOTBALL FRACAS IN ALGIERS, AND VISITS TO TRIPOLI BY RENE, GOULED, AND SYLVAIN-GOMA CANNOT DO MUCH TO BOLSTER IT. STILL, SEYCHELLES-LIBYAN COMMUNIQUE IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KIND OF PUBLIC SUPPORT LIBYA EXPECTS FROM ITS AID RECIPIENTS, AND LIBYA WILL PROBABLY ENDEAVOR TO KEEP RENE HAPPY WITH AN ADEQUATE (BUT NOT LAVISH) ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
BLUCKER

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